

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Leonard Coffman on  
being named a member of the Tennessee  
Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame is a nonprofit corporation founded to honor the outstanding achievements of Tennesseans in the realm of sports, to perpetuate their respective memories and to display mementos and souvenirs of their careers and service in a permanent Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, each year, after careful and thorough examination of the qualifications of several possible candidates, a select group of persons is selected for inclusion in this hallowed shrine; and

WHEREAS, the 1996 inductees, (who will receive this prestigious honor at a special ceremony at Opryland Hotel in Nashville on February 2, 1996) appropriately includes renowned football player, coach and game official Leonard Coffman; and

WHEREAS, Coach Coffman, a graduate of Greeneville High School, enrolled at the University of Tennessee in 1936 and was the star fullback for the Vols during two storybook seasons; and

WHEREAS, in 1938, Tennessee was named national collegiate champions following an undefeated campaign that was capped by a resounding 17-0 victory over highly regarded Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl; and

WHEREAS, one year later, the Vols accomplished one of the most remarkable records in the long history of collegiate sports, marching through the regular season without yielding a single point, a feat that has not been matched in the intervening 56 years; and

WHEREAS, legendary Tennessee coach General Bob Neyland, who judged fullbacks by the fervor with which they undertook their blocking assignments, praised Coffman for his toughness and resolution of purpose; and

WHEREAS, Coach Coffman served his country bravely as a member of the Army during World War II as a lieutenant and rose to the rank of captain. After the war, he returned home and became the backfield coach at the University of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, in 1951 he was recalled to service during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Coach Coffman then served as principal at Hot Springs, North Carolina for two years before serving admirably as head football coach at Greeneville High School from 1955-1959, retiring from the school system in 1980; and

WHEREAS, he also served adeptly as a game official for many years in both basketball and football for the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association; and

WHEREAS, his numerous contributions to football and high school athletics have been recognized by his inclusion in the East Tennessee Chapter of Football Hall of Fame, the Upper East Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame and the Middlesboro, Kentucky Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause to honor this outstanding Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Leonard Coffman on his selection as a member of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final clause omitted from such copy.